

Wake Forest Town Commission

January 11, 2002

Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse:

As a member of the Wake Forest Board of Commissioners, I am all too aware of the high cost of government despite the fact that our citizens and businesses endure terrible economic conditions in our state. Our town needs revenue from increased business activity, not higher property taxes. It seems to me that all our local industries will be enhanced when the settlement of the Microsoft lawsuit is completed.

As you can tell, I am adamantly opposed to higher taxes in whatever form and work hard to ensure that tax money is spent wisely. But, the fact is, in our growing community, we have services that need to be paid for by government. The best way for our town to generate additional revenue is to increase business activity in Wake Forest.

That is why I was happy to see that the federal government's case against Microsoft had come to a settlement agreement in the court of Judge Kollar-Kotelly. I know that this case has cost the taxpayers of this nation \$30 million, not to mention lesser sums in the 18 states that also brought the original lawsuits. More significantly, it has hurt business, and local revenues, in our town and towns across America.

I am pleased that North Carolina is one state that decided to agree with the settlement and now no more state tax money will be expended. I hope to see the same thing happen in the federal case as well. That is why I am strongly urging the judge to agree to the settlement in this case.

Sincerely,

Chris Malone
Chris Malone
Town Commissioner

401 Owen Avenue - Wake Forest, NC 27587